

of Missouri. Her devotion is an example to us all.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and the Missouri Ninetieth General Assembly in congratulating Margaret Towson on her outstanding service to the people of Missouri.

LUPUS RESEARCH AND CARE
AMENDMENTS OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my strong and heartfelt support for the Lupus Research and Care Amendments Act, which was introduced by our hardworking and dedicated colleague, Congresswoman CARRIE MEEK. She has been a tireless advocate for this issue for years. As the Co-Vice Chair of the Women's Caucus, I am a proud co-sponsor of this legislation, as are 45 Women Caucus members. This legislation is the perfect illustration of a bipartisan effort to address a painful, debilitating disease that affects women nine times more often than men, and African American women three times more often than white women.

It is estimated that between 1.4 million and 2 million Americans have been diagnosed with this disease and that many more have undiagnosed cases. This serious, complex, inflammatory autoimmune disease can simultaneously affect various parts of the body, including the skin, joints, kidneys and brain. It can be difficult to diagnose this disease because its symptoms are similar to those of many other diseases and many people suffering the signs of its onset have never heard of lupus, nor understand how to respond to these symptoms.

The Lupus Research and Care Amendments Act authorizes funding to expand and intensify research on lupus at the National Institutes of Health, including basic research on the causes of lupus; research to determine why the disease is more prevalent in women and particularly African-American women; research on improving diagnostic techniques; and research to develop and evaluate new treatments. This bill also requires the Health and Human Services department to establish a grant program to deliver services to those afflicted with lupus and their families. The program would provide grants to state and local governments, nonprofit hospitals, community based organizations and community or migrant health centers to provide services for diagnosing and managing lupus.

I urge my colleagues to follow the women of the House, and pass this legislation to help countless women and families. This legislation will spur unprecedented yet direly needed research on how this disease affects women and on what the best treatments are to cure this disease. Lupus can be fatal if not detected and treated early, but with this research and proper delivery of services, we can not only enhance people's lives, but save them as well.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER
AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT
ON H.R. 4461, AGRICULTURE,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD
AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPRO-
PRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address a provision in the FY01 Agriculture Appropriations Conference Report that is not only disturbing, but highly objectionable on legal grounds. This provision was subject to absolutely no deliberative thought. In fact, the Chairmen of the House and Senate Judiciary Committee raised serious constitutional and legal concerns about it. The Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers decried it. I am referring to section 745 of the bill. It states, "No manufacturer of a covered product may enter into a contract or agreement that includes a provision to prevent the sale or distribution of covered products imported pursuant to subsection (a)."

Besides the fact that this provision baldly impedes the right of businesses to conduct affairs in the manner they so choose, what is perhaps most troubling about this provision, which restricts freedom of contract and clearly infringes on intellectual property and other constitutional rights, is that it was added to the Conference Report in the dark of night. This provision was not contained in either of the underlying House or Senate Agriculture Appropriations bills—or any other bill for that matter. Moreover, the provision was never the subject of any committee hearings or other public deliberation by the Congress.

While it will slip past Members today because it is buried deep in an important appropriations bill that, among other things, provides billions of dollars in drought relief to American farmers, I take small comfort in knowing that this provision will not slip past the Courts and will not survive judicial review.

Until that time, let us at least realize that this ill-advised provision requires narrow interpretation, not only because of the stealth with which it was included, but because an inappropriately broad reading would raise very serious questions with respect to conflicts with US patent and trade laws. To avoid—or at least minimize—such conflicts, the only interpretation of this provision (which replaced a broader proposed provision that the Conference Committee rejected) is that it is strictly limited to contacts or agreement involving drug reimports, and also containing explicit contractual provisions to this purpose and effect.

Make no mistake—this provision is horrid. That's what you get when you have a flawed process—you get flawed policy. It profoundly affects both intellectual property rights and constitutional rights. It has no place in this bill and I am deeply disappointed the Conference Committee allowed such a provision to be included in this bill.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4205,
FLOYD D. SPENCE NATIONAL DE-
FENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the conference report for the FY01 National Defense Authorization Act named for my distinguished colleague and Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, FLOYD D. SPENCE. Chairman SPENCE has been a great advocate of our nation's military and has worked tirelessly to rebuild a military weakened by years of cuts in the defense budget. Under his leadership we have increased the Department of Defense's budget \$60 billion over the past five years of Clinton-Gore administration cuts.

This bill makes significant progress in keeping faith with the greatest generation by restoring the promise of lifetime health care to America's military retirees and their families. Congressman BUYER's efforts to address a financial challenge resulted in taking retiree health care out of the defense budget and setting up a long-term funding plan to ensure that our nation's military retirees will have access to the medical care that they have deservedly earned.

The defense authorization act also provides active duty service members a new opportunity to convert their Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) benefits to the Montgomery GI Bill if they declined to do so before or withdraw all funds from their VEAP accounts. The bill also builds upon the concurrent receipt initiative provided in last year's defense bill. Beginning in fiscal year 2002, those service-members who are medically retired and rated at least 70% disabled by VA will be eligible for additional special monthly compensation of up to \$300.

Mr. Speaker, I regret that my colleague from Virginia, Readiness Subcommittee Chairman Herb Bateman passed away before seeing this bill signed into law. Throughout the measure are marks of his efforts to ensure that our defenders of freedom are battle ready and have the tools and resources they need. I also wish to thank the retiring Members of the panel who have worked tirelessly to rebuild our nation's military. Your support for our men and women in uniform has not gone unnoticed.

While we have successfully increased funding in critical modernization programs, we have a long way to go. Following the "lost decade" of defense in the 1990s, America's military must be reshaped to meet the challenges of the post-Cold War world. Starting immediately, the United States must commit the resources necessary to improve current military capabilities and prepare our forces to face the threats of the coming decades. Anything less jeopardizes the military's readiness and America's place in the world.